

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 02542 051201Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 SCCT-01 IO-10 SAB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /080 W

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R 051147Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3891

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION GENEVI

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2542

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLO, LE

SUBJ: YUGO AMBASSADOR REPORTS PLO ATTITUDES TOWARDS
LEBANESE CONFLICT AND PLO-LIBYAN-SYRIAN RELATIONS

REF: BEIRUT 8212

1. ACCORDING YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR PEKIC, PLO POLITICAL
DEPARTMENT HEAD FAROUK QADDOUMI (ABU LUTF), TOLD HIM IN
LATE JUNE THAT PLO'S OVERRIDING CONCERN IN LEBANESE
CONFLICT WAS TO PRESERVE ITS INDEPENDENCE BOTH
FROM THOSE WHO WISHED TO CRUSH THE ORGANIZATION AND
THOSE WHO WOULD MANIPULATE IT FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES.
ASKED ABOUT PLO RELATIONSHIPS WITH JUMBLAT, QADDOUMI
REPLIED "WE ARE HAVING AS MUCH TROUBLE
FROM THE LEFT AS
THE RIGHT IN LEBANON."

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PAGE 02 DAMASC 02542 051201Z

2. QADDOUMI TOLD PEKIC THAT IN THEIR RECENT DISCUSSIONS

IN DAMASCUS AND TRIPOLI WITH LIBYAN PRIME MINISTER JALOUZ,
PLO REPS HAD REITERATED POSITION, IN FACE OF STRENUOUS
LIBYAN ARGUMENTS TO CONTRARY, THAT THEY WERE INTERESTED
IN A "MODERATE SOLUTION," I.Z., A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO
ARAB-ISRAEL CONFLICT, AND INTENDED TO PURSUE SAME.

3. QADDOUMI ALSO INFORMED PEKIC OF EXCHANGE BETWEEN
PRESIDENT ASAD AND JALOUZ ABOUT WHICH HE HAD BEEN
PERSONALLY BRIEFED BY ASAD. IN ANSWER TO JALOUZ'S PERSISTENT
URGINGS THAT SYRIA SHOULD ABANDON SEARCH FOR POLITICAL
SOLUTION, ASAD SAID
HE HAD REPLIED THAT A POLITICAL SOLUTION
REMAINED HIS POLICY. HE, HOWEVER, HAD ADMITTED TO JALOUZ THAT
HE WAS DEPRESSED BY THE LACK OF PROGRESS ON THE POLITICAL
ROAD AND WAS "BEGINNING TO THINK" THAT ANOTHER WAR
MIGHT BE THE ONLY WAY TO BREAK OUT OF THE PRESENT IMPASSE.

4. COMMENTING ON PROGRESS TOWARDS ESTABLISHING SYRO-PALESTINIAN
JOINT COMMAND, QADDOUMI SAID THAT AS HEAD OF THE NEGOTIATIONS
FROM THE PLO SIDE, HE COULD AFFIRM THAT PROGRESS TO DATE HAD
BEEN SLOW. HE OBSERVED THAT PLO MEMBERSHIP WAS EXTREMELY
RELUCTANT ENTER INTO ANY RELATIONSHIP WHICH WOULD LIMIT ITS
FREEDOM
OF ACTION.
MURPHY

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